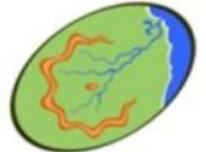


Return Address:
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Tweed Landcare News



Nov-Dec 2016

Tweed Landcare Inc.
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www.tweedlandcare.org.au

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For Aboriginal cultural heritage
information contact
**Tweed Byron Local
Aboriginal Lands Council**

21/25 Ourimbah Road
Tweed Heads West 2484
Postal: PO Box 6967
Tweed Heads South 2486
(07) 5536 1763

All contributions to the
newsletter are welcome.

December

Sunday 4 Community tree planting, Cudgen Nature Reserve
Wednesday 21 Tweed Landcare meeting, Murwillumbah

The Tweed River Festival was held this year at Tumbulgum to coincide with the village's 150 year anniversary celebration. Tweed Landcare assisted a community tree planting and hosted kids' activities making boats and teaching the importance of looking after the river.



Photo: Trish Budd

Tweed Landcare meeting

The next Tweed Landcare meeting is Wednesday 21 December, 6.00 pm at the Murwillumbah Services Club meeting room.

We will now have a session at the start of each meeting for members to raise issues or projects. Please email to Secretary franohara590@gmail.com with agenda items. Everyone welcome.

Tweed Landcare AGM

At the AGM on 16 November the new committee for the next year was elected. Most committee carry on their existing roles, though we welcome Clare Alchin to the committee and thank Michael Lageman for his many years of participation.

L-R Alex Dale (committee), Joanna Gardner (vice chair), Hamish Brace (chair), Clare Alchin (committee), Chris Roberts (treasurer), Fran O'Hara (secretary) and Marion Riordan (committee).



Community Tree Planting Day

When: Sunday 4 December, 8.30 – 12.30
Where: Cudgen Nature Reserve (details on registration)

Project partners Conservation Volunteers, Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Tweed Shire Council and Friends of the Koala are working to repair over 1 ha of Koala habitat in the reserve to help protect the declining Tweed Coast Koala population.



Lunch is provided. Bring plenty of water, a hat, sturdy shoes and gloves (we will have sunscreen, extra water and some spare gloves available on the day).

Register by Wed 30th November: Laura White (02) 6681 6169 laurawhite@cva.org.au
Information about getting to the site will be provided when you register.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

The latest roundup of information about natural resource management relevant to agriculture. NRM on Farms November edition at <http://tweedlandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/NRM-on-Farms-November-2016.pdf>



Results are in for the inaugural Tweed Care group survey

Tweed Landcare recently sent out survey to Tweed Care (Landcare, Dunecare, Coastcare and Friends of) groups. The survey helped Tweed Landcare capture information in regards to how the Care groups are travelling, what help they would like and importantly the help that they may need.

Fourteen groups responded to the survey. The main areas where groups would like assistance from Tweed Landcare are:

- Promotion to increasing volunteers/ membership, including youth.
- Training in first aid, plant and weed identification and bush regeneration.
- Help applying for funding for larger projects that are beyond the day to day resources of the group and for tools and equipment.

A significant number of groups were interested in hosting another Care group or Intrepid (youth) Landcarers. The survey also highlighted that many groups lack of information around insurance and risk assessment for Care activities and are therefore not complying with requirements.

Jude and Amalia will be contacting the groups that completed the survey to address their specific needs. The results will also guide the events that Tweed Landcare organises as part of the Community Capacity Support and Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative programs.

We would like to thank all the groups that participated in this years survey, they have provided valuable information that will help us target our resources to where Care groups need assistance. The survey will be an annual undertaking- next year we hope to engage with more groups and get a bigger picture of Landcare activities in the Tweed.

To celebrate Tumbulgum's 150yr celebrations a Riverbank Tree Planting took place on 8 November.

Tweed Shire Council, Tweed Landcare and Tumbulgum Community Association and friends joined together to plant trees in Bluey Hill Park to help make our river healthier.

The planting included 100 trees, 100 lomandra and crinum lilies.



Caldera Art 2016 Exhibitions Update

Thirty four superb artworks are currently on display in the Caldera Art Gallery (until Dec. 9th). Tweed Shire mayor Katie Milne recently opened the exhibition with Dr Mark Kingston from the Natural Resource Management section echoing her words of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the region's natural environment. All CA2016 entries may be viewed in the [Caldera Art website](#) on-line exhibition.



Filling the Biodiversity Gaps Connecting Tweed Coast to Border Ranges Stage 2

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

The project (2016-19) continues the long term vision to achieve connectivity of good condition vegetation corridors linking from the Tweed Coast via the coastal National Parks and Nature Reserves through to the Border Ranges and escarpment National Parks and Nature Reserves.

The linkages provide habitat and movement corridors for a range of flora and fauna including threatened species and communities.



Participating properties are at Numinbah, Dungay, Tomewin, Terragon and Cudgera Creek and contain the endangered ecological community Lowland Rainforest.

Bush regenerators will improve vegetation connectivity and condition by controlling invasive weeds in twenty-five hectares of high conservation value vegetation.

Habitat Restoration Plans for the properties will guide onground works. Landholders will work alongside the bush regenerators, improving their skills to manage the corridor habitat on their property in the long term.

Project partners are Tweed Shire Council, North Coast Local Land Services and the Office of Environment and Heritage.



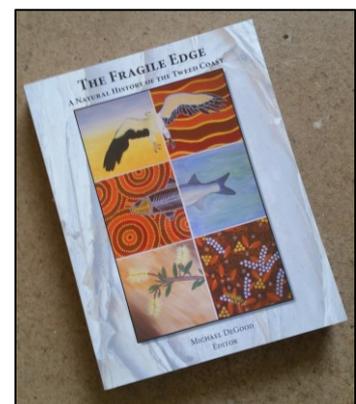
The project is aligned with the *Saving Our Species (SoS) Landscape Species Strategy 2015* (Office of Environment and Heritage). Download the Strategy at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-program/threatened-species-conservation/landscape-managed-species>

“SoS defines landscape species as typically being widely distributed, highly mobile or dispersed, and best recovered by managing threats associated with habitat loss or degradation at a landscape scale. Landscape species are predominantly birds, mammals, frogs and reptiles (a full list of species currently allocated to the landscape stream is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspeciesapp/managementstream.aspx?managementstream=landscape).“

The Fragile Edge A Natural History of the Tweed Coast

A brilliant new book, a long time in the making, has been published that showcases and explains “the Tweed Coast’s globally significant biodiversity, unique cultural heritage and the challenges faced by this precious stretch of coastline”.

It is available in local bookshops and libraries or contact:
The Fragile Edge, PO Box 24, Bogangar NSW 2488.



Working with the community to help recover Pottsville's koalas

Tanya Fountain, Tweed Shire Council's Threatened Species Officer

In May this year, Council was successful in receiving funding from the NSW Environmental Trust to help in the recovery of the Tweed Coast koala population at the Pottsville Wetland.

The Pottsville Wetland, at just under 300ha, provides critical habitat for the declining Tweed Coast koala population. This site also provides habitat for numerous species of threatened fauna, protects large areas of floodplain Endangered Ecological Communities and state significant forested wetland and contributes significantly to our coastal bushland reserve system.



Through the project we will continue restoration of koala habitat and create new koala habitat through planting more koala food trees, continue monitoring and control (where required) invasive animals like cats, foxes and wild dogs, improve the management of domestic pets impacting on local biodiversity, create koala fire refuge habitat and undertake planning for bushfire.

The project also aims to increase community awareness and active involvement in the conservation of Pottsville's koalas and other biodiversity values of the Pottsville Wetland.

Community engagement activities planned under the project include:

- Regular community work days to plant and maintain koala food and habitat trees and learn more about local flora and fauna.
- Gathering 'citizen science' to improve our knowledge and management of the wetland, including quarterly bird surveys and encouraging the community to share their koala sightings.
- Encouraging residents neighbouring the Pottsville Wetland to join the "Backyard Habitat for Wildlife program" – to better provide fauna habitat in their backyard, manage the impacts of their pets and plant natives rather than plants that may become bushland weeds.
- Holding several local "Green Days" to promote the conservation of koalas, koala habitat and local biodiversity values and provide local residents with information to help them minimise their impact on koalas and biodiversity.

We are privileged to have very active community members and groups in the Tweed and they really are integral to the success of our environmental projects. Team Koala and other members of the Tweed community have already stepped up to start planting more koala food trees and maintain the trees we have already planted. And local members of Birdlife Northern Rivers have already embarked on quarterly bird surveys in the wetland so we can get a better idea of the birds the wetland supports throughout the year.

If you would like to register your interest in participating in tree planting and maintenance mornings or assisting with bird surveys please contact me on (02) 6670 2587 or at tfountain@tweed.nsw.gov.au,

Or if you are a neighbour to the Pottsville Wetland and would like to contribute your koala records or find out more about the Backyard Habitat for Wildlife program, I would love to hear from you.

We really need your help to help recover our koalas and protect our very precious bushland and biodiversity.

Time to treat weeds like Giant devils fig

Kim Curtis, Extension Officer, Rous County Council



Giant devils fig is a native of Central America and was introduced to the Far North Coast of New South Wales around 35 years ago. It has been spread extensively by birds and bats to become one of the most serious weed threats on the Far North Coast.

Giant devils fig is a tall perennial woody shrub, 3-4m high. It has thorns similar to a rose plant and long distinct rusty coloured hairy stems and petioles. It has broad ovate-lobed leaves that finish in a distinct point and are hairy on the underside. The fruit is similar to wild tobacco and is spread via birds and bats.

Senior Noxious Weeds Officer, Rhett Patrick, said spring is a good time for landowners to be treating their land for all weeds, including Giant devils fig (pictured). 'The seriousness of the threat to our bushland cannot be overstated. We share a similar climate to the other locations in the world where this plant has devastated the natural environment. Due to the numbers of germinating plants, we know there are many plants on private land in the Tweed Shire and we need the assistance of our community to treat them.'

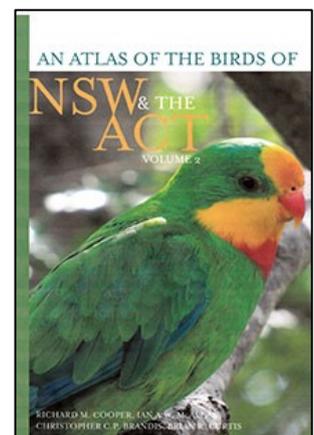
Individual plants can be cut and poisoned with Vigilant gel. If you have too many to treat individually they can be sprayed with either Grazon Extra at 350-500ml per 100Lts water or 2L Glyphosate and 10g Brushoff mixed into 100Lts water.

NSW Bird Atlas: Humble beginnings to Best Zoological Resource for 2016

Sifting through 6 million records collated over 40 years was required to achieve the Royal Zoological Society Whitley Award; the honour being the Best Zoological Resource for 2016.

Turn back 40 years to the present, NSW Bird Atlassers (NSWBA) volunteer dedicated band of individual bird watchers recorded sightings of birds and then contributed those records to their data base. Then the core group of authors sifted and compiled this information to produce An Atlas of the Birds of NSW and the ACT; Volumes 1 and Volume 2. It has been volume 2 that has received the recognition of those efforts.

To find out more about NSWBA, visit www.nswbirdatlassers.org.au



Noxious weeds in the Tweed

Kylie Van Der Kolk, Noxious Weeds Officer, Rous County Council

A quick summary of the noxious weeds that have either been recorded or are currently being managed in the Tweed Shire are listed below:

Class 1: State prohibited weeds

- Hymenachne (Cobakai)
- Kidney Leaf Mud Plantain (Banora Point and Kingscliff)
- Miconia (North Tumbulgum, Tomewin, Dungay, Burringbar and Bilambil Heights)
- Pond Apple (Duranbah)
- Tropical Soda Apple (Byrrell Creek, Smiths Creek, Fernvale and Kingscliff)
- Water Lettuce (Pumpenbil)

Class 2: Regionally prohibited weeds

- Asparagus fern
- Cecropia
- Long-leaf Willow Primrose
- Hygrophilia
- Ming Asparagus Fern
- Sickletorn

Class 3: Regionally controlled weeds

- Bitou Bush
- Broad-leaf Pepper Tree
- Giant Devils Fig
- Giant Rat's Tail Grass
- Groundsel Bush
- Kudzu
- Mysore Thorn
- Yellow Bells

Furthermore, Parthenium Weed and Prickly Acacia (class 1) are recorded and being managed just on the other side of the NSW/QLD border. If they are not here already, then there is a high possibility that they will be soon.

The full noxious weeds list at: https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-UMB-66-50-22



A family of Tawny Frogmouths quietly supervised proceedings of the planting at Tumbulgum as part of the Tweed River festival. Photo: Matt Bloor

Volunteering opportunities with local care groups

	Location of site	Workday/ time	Contact for day
Coastal groups			
Fingal Head Coastcare	Meet at Coastcare nursery off the lighthouse track	Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 - 11 am Saturday 9am - 12pm	Kay Bolton 0402 839 479
Kingscliff Community Dunecare	Currently meeting on south side of Cudgen Creek, near the Toilet Block. This changes as worksite moves.	Tuesday and Thursday 8 - 10am	Peter Langley 02 6674 5362
Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve	Meet at Sliprails Rd or Clothiers Creek Rd	2nd Saturday 8 – 10am	Chris Core 0407 762 108 or John McDonagh 0421 657 960
North Casuarina Beach Dunecare	Working from track 1 south.	Generally weekly but no specific day/ time.	Ross Pierce 02 6674 2788
Hastings Point Dunecare	Meet at shipping container on Tweed Coast Road just north of North Star Holiday Park	Every Tuesday and Thursday 7 - 9am	Arthur Good (Goody) 02 6676 0880 0428 760 000
Pottsville Community Dunecare	Mooball Beach dunes - exact location determined Wednesday before.	Every Monday 7 - 9am (Except April)	Bill Hoskins 0431 712 726
Cabarita Beach Dunecare	Saturday & Wednesday meet at shipping container just south of the Primary School.	1st Saturday 8:30 - 11am 2nd Wednesday 9 - 10:30 am	Saturday & Wednesday: Faye Nash 02 6676 2331
	Tuesday meet at the Cabarita Sports and Bowls Club	3rd Tuesday 1 - 3pm (nursery)	Tuesday: Annie Pollard 0415 896 949
Valley groups			
Byrill Creek Landcare	Meet at Pretty Gully, 564 Byrill Creek Rd, Byrill Creek.	2nd Sunday 8.30am - 12.30pm	Joanna Gardner 02 6679 7039
Bilambil Landcare	Meet at entrance to worksite next to the bridge, Bilambil Rd.	Tuesdays 9am	Gary Austin 0427 269 486
Chillingham Landcare	Chillingham village	No specific time	Judy White 02 6679 1467 or 0488 693 852
Upper Duroby Creek Landcare	Upper Duroby Creek Road	Monthly	Jan Sinclair 07 5590 9826 Lee Perkins 0410 430 923
Friends of Wollumbin	Kyogle Road, Byangum, 3 km south of Byangum bridge, at the green container on Tweed River.	1st Saturday 8am - 12 noon This months workday is 2nd Saturday – 9 May	Roland 0417 253 767 or Ian 02 6679 5441
	Kyogle Road, Byangum, 1 km south of Byangum bridge on the new planting site.	3rd Thursday 8am – 12 noon	